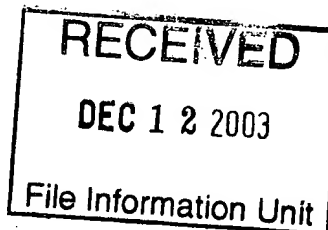


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07/579,569

9/10/90

Paper No.

#87

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United States Patent Application Publication No. _____, page, _____ line _____,

United States Patent Number 6,211,625, column _____, line, _____ or

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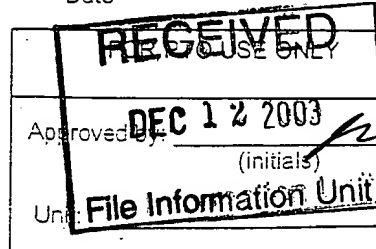
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703-415-0006

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12-12-03

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US006211625B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Nilssen

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,211,625 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 3, 2001**

(54) **ELECTRONIC BALLAST WITH
OVER-VOLTAGE PROTECTION**

(76) Inventor: **Ole K. Nilssen**, Caesar Dr., Barrington,
IL (US) 60010

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 1388 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **08/571,634**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 13, 1995**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/236,125, filed on May 3,
1994, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application
No. 07/579,569, filed on Sep. 10, 1990, now abandoned,
which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 06/787,
692, filed on Oct. 15, 1985, now abandoned, which is a
continuation of application No. 06/644,155, filed on Aug.
27, 1984, now abandoned, which is a continuation of applica-
tion No. 06/555,426, filed on Nov. 23, 1983, now aban-
doned, which is a continuation of application No. 06/178,
107, filed on Aug. 14, 1980, now abandoned.

(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **H05B 37/00; H05B 37/02**

(52) U.S. Cl. **315/225; 315/311; 315/284;
315/205; 315/225**

(58) Field of Search **315/311, 284,
315/205, 53, 225, 209 R**

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in the Home Market" by E.A. Dale et al., Lighting & Design
Appl., Mar. 1976, pp. 18-23.*

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Primary Examiner—Arnold Kinkcad

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In an electronic ballast, a rapid start fluorescent lamp is
powered by being parallel-connected with the tank-capacitor
of a series-resonant LC circuit. Beating power for the lamp's
cathodes is obtained by way of loosely-coupled auxiliary
windings on the tank inductor of the LC circuit. In case the
fluorescent lamp were to be disconnected or otherwise were
to fail to properly load the series-resonant LC circuit, due to
so-called Q-multiplication, the magnitude of the voltage
developed across the tank-capacitor would normally increase
to a high and potentially destructive level. However, due to
feedback operable to cause the inverter frequency to
increase as a function of the magnitude of the voltage across
the tank-capacitor, the magnitude of this tank-capacitor
voltage is limited to a level substantially lower than what
otherwise would be the case.

17 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

